

DES/18/98

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TMD-94-00-2

Eileen S. Stommes, Deputy Administrator
USDA-AMS-TM-NOP, AG Stop 0275, Room 4007-So.
P. O. Box 96456
Washington, DC 20090-4632

March 10, 1998

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Dear Eileen Stommes,

I am writing to strongly protest the inclusion of genetically engineered and irradiated seeds in the National Organic Standards. I am also opposed to the use of sewage sludge as part of the crop growing medium.

When I was 21 years old (I am now 46), and I moved to California from Michigan, I was introduced to natural foods by a roommate whose pantry was stocked by all sorts of new, strange grains and beans - millet, buckwheat, lentils - things I had never heard of or seen while growing up in a large industrial Midwestern city. He had an organic garden growing, which I tended while he was on vacation. At around the same time, I started a yoga class, and for the first time in my young life, I became aware of the insides of my body. As my diet changed from meat to mostly vegetarian, and I continued with my yoga practice, my sensitivities grew, and with it a much deeper and sacrosanct feeling about my body, how I wanted to care for it, how I want to love it, and how I wanted to give it the best possible food. As a result, I have bought food labelled "organic" exclusively for the last 25 years, even when it meant a greater expense or an inconvenience.

I do not trust the unnatural intrusions of radiation and gene tampering to deliver safe, wholesome, life positive building materials for my body. I do not like the idea of feeding plants that are to become the foundation of my physical existence with toxic sewage sludge. This is not an intellectual issue for me - I have a visceral aversion to it, and I totally object to including these inferior foods under the word "organic." I feel that it is taking away a right of mine to choose the healthiest food that I can.

The National Organic Standards, as currently written, are not acceptable, and need to be changed to incorporate the highest standards for food quality possible.

Sincerely,



Deborah Boye
P. O. Box 1238
Dolan Springs, AZ 86441
(520)767-4273

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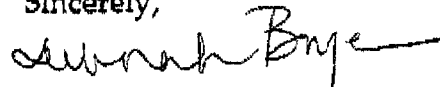
Dear Eileen Stommes,

I am writing to voice my opposition to two sections of the National Organic Standards involving the animal husbandry practices and the certification fee structure for small farmers.

The NOS, as currently written, do not specifically require that farmers adhere strictly to humane animal husbandry practices. This is in direct conflict with the spirit of the organic movement, as it has developed in this country, which recognizes and celebrates the integrity and wholeness of living systems. The National Organic Standards should spell out specific practices that give farm animals the highest respect and healthiest environment possible.

Secondly, many organic farmers have small operations and little capital, yet through love, commitment, and hard work are producing some of the most vibrant, diverse, and healthy crops being grown today. It will not further the real needs of this country to cut out these creative, productive and community supporting farms by requiring them to come up with sums of cash for certification that cripple them financially or force them out of the marketplace. It must be recognized that these small farmers are absolutely vital to quality organic food production. Excluding them will dilute the overall excellence of food available, and is a strike at the heart of our needs as a people.

Sincerely,



Deborah Boye
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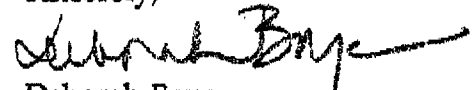
Mothers for Natural Law
P. O. Box 1177
Fairfield, IA 52556

March 10, 1998

Dear Mothers for Natural Law,

Enclosed in this fax are two letters I wrote protesting sections of the National Organic Standards. I received your alert with my Gold Mine catalog, and I just wanted to thank you for summarizing the issues so eloquently and potently. It made it much easier for me to write these letters.

Sincerely,



Deborah Boye
P.O. Box 1238
Dolan Springs, AZ 86441